

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD

GOVGUAM

TREASURY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 10 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CARTER NEWS CONFERENCE

IN WEDNESDAY MEETING WITH NEWSMEN, PRES ANNOUNCED LIFTING OF ALL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON AMCITS VISITING VN/NK/CAM-BODIA/CUBA (GWERTZMAN, NYT; MCCARTNEY, PHINQ; LIFF, NYDN; LEUBSDORF, SUN; WSJ); ALSO AFFIRMED US WILL WITHDRAW GROUND FORCES FROM SK OVER 4-5 YEAR PERIOD, IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH SK/JAPAN (GWERTZMAN; LEUBSDORF; WP'S OBERDORFER). NYDN'S ANTEVIL NOTES CARTER SAID THOUGH PASSPORT CURBS BEING LIFTED, DIPLO RELS WITH THESE COUNTRIES "DOUBTFUL PROSPECT AT THIS TIME." SUN/NYT CARRY FULL TRANSCRIPT, WHICH SHOWS PRES ADDING HE WISHES LEAVE IN PLACE ADEQUATE GROUND FORCES UNDER ROKG CONTROL; HE UNCLASSIFIED

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ENVISIONS CONTINUATION US AIR COVER FOR SK OVER LONG PERIOD; WITHDRAWAL US GROUND TROOPS WOULD BE MATTER DISCUSSED IN HIS 3/9 MEETING WITH SK FM.

2. INDOCHINA

VN WILL ALLOW 5 US NEWSMEN VISIT HANOI THIS MO TO COVER ACTIVITIES SPECIAL US DEL ON MIA QUESTION. VN SENT DOS CORRESPONDENTS' ASSN UNSOLICITED CABLE TO SAY US REPORTERS COULD ACCOMPANY COMMISSION (AP, NYDN).

3. THAILAND

US MIL PLANES WILL SOON RESUME FLIGHTS TO BRING MIL SUPPLIES. DURING FY 77, US PROVIDING 16 MILLION DOLS IN MIL AID/30 MILLION IN LONG-TERM CREDIT MIL SALES (WP).

COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS AMBUSH JEEP IN S THAILAND, KILL 4 POLICE/1 CIVILIAN (REUTER BANGKOK).

4. PHILIPPINES

MARCOS SENDING IMELDA TO LIBYA IN HOPE "PERSONAL DIPLOMACY" WILL HELP STALLED NEGOTS THERE W/S PHIL MOSLEM INSURGENTS (AP, NYT; WP). MIL IN ZAMBOANGA PLACED ON ALERT FOLLOWING PEACE TALK DEADLOCK (REUTER MANILA).

5. AUSTRALIA

WHITLAM SUPPORTERS INSIST CONTROVERSIAL SPEECH HE MADE BEFORE QUEEN AT CANBERRA WAS ONLY GOOD-NATURED SPOOF/HAD ROYAL CLEARANCE IN ADVANCE. SOME PAPERS/MPs SCOLDED WHITLAM FOR SPEECH REFERENCES TO: "QUEEN OF SCOTS...QUEEN OF QUEENSLAND...QUEEN OF THE SOLOMONS. WHAT NEXT? QUEEN OF SHEBA?" (NYT).

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6. CHINA

REUTER (HK) REPORTS "CHINA PICTORIAL" LATEST EDITION HAS RENDERED DISGRACED RADICALS "NON PERSONS," OBLIGERATING PHOTOS/REPLACING NAMES WITH XS IN PHOTOS OF FULL PRC LEADERSHIP AT SEPT MOURNING CEREMONIES FOR MAO.

7. JAPAN

WH ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY THAT CARTER WILL MEET W/JAPAN/UK/FRG/France/CANADA/ITALY MAY 7-8 IN SERIES LONDON TALKS DEVOTED MAINLY, THO NOT EXCLUSIVELY, TO ECON PROBLEMS/INFLATION/UNEMPLOYMENT/RELS W/3RD WORLD (UPI, LAT 3/9).

ADDRESSING TOKYO FOR CORRESPONDENTS CLUB 3/10, FUKUDA SAID HE WOULD SPEAK OUT AGAINST PROTECTIONISM AT WASHINGTON TALKS W/CARTER MARCH 21-22/AT LONDON SUMMIT IN MAY. PM SAID ANY REVERSION TO PROTECTIONISM WOULD BE "POLITICAL TRAGEDY OF GLOBAL MAGNITUDE." FUKUDA ALSO TOLD QUESTIONER PLANNED WITHDRAWAL US TROOPS SK WOULD HAVE NO IMPACT ON JAPAN'S OWN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS, STRESSED BELIEF CARTER ADMIN'S ASIAN POL WOULD NOT BE FINALIZED

UNTIL AFTER DISCUSSED W/JAPAN. PM ALSO STATED HE FULLY

SUPPORTED PRES' STRONG STANCE ON HUMAN RTS (REUTER'S KERR, TOKYO).

IN TOKYO WED, US CMTE FOR ECON DEVELOPMENT CHRMN FRANKLIN SAID US BUSINESS LEADERS WILL DEMAND UPWARD REVALUATION YEN IF JAPAN'S EXPORTS TO US CONTINUE EXPAND AT RAPID RATE. ARGUED JAPAN/OTHER NATIONS W/FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCES SHOULD SHARE RESPONSIBILITY OF COORDINATING PAYMENTS POSITIONS W/THOSE COUNTRIES OPERATING IN DEFICIT. LDP MEMBER TOLD JOC WED ANY MOVES CURTAIL EXPORTS/INCREASE IMPORTS WOULD COME UNDER VIOLENT ATTACK IN DIET, W/CLAIMS LDP WAS SELLING NATION "DOWN THE RIVER" (CULLISON, JOC).
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ITC'S RULING THAT US COLOR TV INDUSTRY BEING HARMED BY JAPANESE IMPORTS DISTURBS TOKYO. GOJ AUTHORITIES SAY THEY WILL BE WATCHING SEE WHAT STEPS ITC WILL RECOMMEND TO CARTER ADMIN. DEPENDING ON WHAT MEASURES US DECIDES UPON, LIKELY TOKYO WILL CALL ON PRES TO AGREE ON GOVT-LEVEL NEGOTS IN ORDER SETTLE MATTER FAIRLY. JAPAN'S ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES ASSN EXPRESSES HOPE CARTER WILL ACT W/"SOUND JUDGMENT" ON MATTER, BUT DOES NOT RULE OUT POSSIBLE RETALIATORY MEASURES (CULLISON).

LAT'S JAMESON (3/9) DOES ARTICLE ON JAPAN'S SUCCESS W/STATIONARY ORBIT SATELLITE. TALKS W/JAPANESE SPACE OFFICIALS WHO REMARK ON JAPAN'S ONCE TOTAL DEPENDENCY ON US FOR SPACE TECHNOLOGY, NOW COUNTRY ON ITS OWN. OFFICIALS STILL ARGUING OVER WHETHER COUNTRY SHOULD RELY ON US TO LAUNCH JAPANESE-BUILT SATELLITES IN 1980S.

OKLAHOMA-BASED COMBUSTION ENGINEERING HAS AGREED ASSIST MITSUBISHI IN ITS PROVIDING 170-MIL-DOL NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS GATHERING FACILITY OFF QATAR'S COAST (JOC).

NIPPON STEEL PLANS REDUCE CAPITAL SPENDING 23 PCT IN FY'78; FIRM ALSO EXPECTS PRODUCTION TO RISE 1.2 MIL TONS OVER PREVIOUS YR (WSJ).

GOJ SURVEY SHOWS JAPANESE CHILDREN 4 IN TALLER THAN NATL AVG 20 YRS AGO, BUT ALSO MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DISEASE/ NEARSIGHTEDNESS/OVERWEIGHT (REUTER, LAT 3/9).

8. JAPAN/AUSTRALIA

TOYOTA PLANS 44-MIL-DOL PLANT IN MELBOURNE SUBURB. CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN THIS YR/PRODUCTION WILL BEGIN 2ND HALF '78. PLANT TO PRODUCE ENGINES FOR 2 TOYOTA MODELS, PERMITTING FIRM ASSEMBLE CARS W/PARTS 85 PCT
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PROVIDED IN AUSTRALIA (WSJ, JOC).

9. KOREA

KHITRIB'S NEIKIRK NOTES CARTER, IN 3/9 NEWS CONF REAFFIRMATION COMMITMENT WITHDRAW US GROUND TROOPS SK, INDICATED US AIR COVER WOULD CONTINUE OVER "LONG PERIOD" TIME. BUT WP'S OBERDORFER NOTES PRES DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER AIR COVER WOULD BE BASED SK OR OUTSIDE COUNTRY.

ABOUT 2 HRS AFTER PRES SPOKE, VANCE OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED SKOREAN FONMIN PARK OF USG DECISION REMOVE GROUND FORCES ON SCHEDULE NOT YET DETERMINED. INFORMED SOURCES SAY SECSTATE TOLD PARK IN DOS MTG THAT DETAILED US PLANS SHOULD BE READY FOR DISCUSSION W/ROKG LATE THIS SPRING; PARK REPORTEDLY DID NOT SEEK DISSUADE US FROM PULLOUT, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT US SECURITY COMMITMENT REMAIN INTACT. CARTER HAD 45-MIN MTG W/PARK AT WH LATE YESTERDAY, DISCUSSED BOTH TROOP WITHDRAWAL/HUMAN RTS. PRES STATED AT NEWS CONF HE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED PULLOUT W/US CMDR IN SK GEN VESSEY ON FEB 18 (OBERDORFER).

NYT'S HALLORAN ADDS CARTER STATED WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE WOULD BE "WORKED OUT VERY CAREFULLY" W/ROKG, WOULD BE DONE W/"FULL UNDERSTANDING AND PERHAPS PARTICIPATION OF JAPAN." WH SPOKESMAN SAID PRES ASSURED PARK WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE CARRIED OUT CAREFULLY SO AS NOT UPSET MIL BALANCE/CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY ON KOREAN PENINSULA. SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID CARTER EMPHASIZED TO FONMIN "DEEP CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN KOREA"/ELSEWHERE AROUND WORLD.

HALLORAN ALSO STATES EARLIER CONVERSATIONS W/ADMIN OFFICIALS/KEY CONGRESSMEN SUGGEST US COMMITMENT TO SK WILL INEVITABLY DIMINISH AS BOTH EXEC/CONGRESS MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION. CONGRESSSIONAL CRITICS OF ROKG INSIST THEY HAVE LEVERAGE PUSH AHEAD W/POLICY CHANGES THEY DEEM UNCLASSIFIED

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NECESSARY DUE MOOD GENERATED BY KOREAN BRIBERY SCANDAL. HALLORAN QUOTES REP FRASER, WHO SAYS HE WOULD LIKE SEE US "DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE" ENCOURAGE CHANGE POL DIRECTIONS IN SK, BUT SAID WOULD PREFER IF CHANGE CAME FROM EXEC BRANCH BECAUSE "WHEN CONGRESS ACTS, IT'S MORE LIKE A MEAT CLEAVER."

OPPENHEIMER (WSTAR) DOES ARTICLE ON IRS SEIZURE TONGSUN PARK'S ASSETS. REPORTS SOURCE CLOSE TO PARK SAID YESTERDAY PARK'S ATTYS SURPRISED BY ACTION BECAUSE THEY HAD NOTIFIED IRS PARK INTENDED LITIGATE CIVIL TAX MATTER. SAME SOURCE SAID PARK WANTED CLOSE HOUSE/SELL FURNISHINGS "BECAUSE HE'S NOT COMING BACK." IRS ACTION REPORTEDLY INTENDED

PRESSURE PARK RETURN US/TESTIFY AGAINST THOSE WHO TOOK ALLEGED ILLEGAL CASH FROM HIM/OTHERS. IN VOICE VOTE TUES, HOUSE APPROVED 500,000 DOLS FOR ETHICS CMTE/300,000 DOLS FOR HIRC SUBCMTE TO FUND INVESTIGATIONS SKOREAN INFLUENCE-PEDDLING ON CAPITOL HILL (GLOBE).

DURING BREAKFAST MTG W/REPORTERS 3/9, CIA CHIEF TURNER ASSERTED THERE WAS NO TRADE-OFF BETW CIA AND KOREAN/IRANIAN INTELL AGENTS TO OPERATE IN EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY (RAWLS, NYT).

10. GENERAL

HUNDREDS FLEE HI-RISE BLDGS AS EARTH TREMOR SHAKES SINGAPORE. QUAKE OCCURRED OFF SUMATRA (WP). QUAKE REGISTERING RICHTER 5.5-6.5 FELT OVER WIDE AREA SEA. EPICENTER WAS ON W COAST SUMATRA, BUT TREMORS FELT FAR AS SINGAPORE. NO IMMEDIATE REPORTS DAMAGE/INJURIES (REUTER, NYT 3/10).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

11. TRAVEL CURBS

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CITING CARTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF REMOVAL RESTRICTIONS ON AMCITS' PASSPORT USE IN TRAVEL TO VN/NK/CAMBODIA/CUBA, NYT'S DEBART SAYS WHILE THIS ENDS SYMBOLIC ROADBLOCK TO VISITING 4 PROSCRIBED COUNTRIES, MAJOR HURDLE REMAINS GETTING ENTRY VISA FROM GOVTS INVOLVED. NOTES AMCITS HAVE BEEN VISITING VN WITH/WITHOUT US OK AT HANOI'S INVITATION; NO AMCITS ALLOWED INTO CAMBODIA SINCE 1975, FEWER THAN HANDFUL HAVE MADE IT TO NK; NONE OF GOVTS HAS DIPLO RELS WITH US. FEELS CUBA WILL BE COUNTRY AFFECTED MOST BY REMOVAL TRAVEL CURBS. REPORTS VIEW OF VN UN OBSERVER MISSION THAT SRV NOW LACKS FACILITIES FOR FOREIGNERS VISIT HANOI.

GLOBE OPINES THAT BY LIFTING TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, PRES MADE CLEAR HIS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS NOT ONE-WAY STREET. SAYS WHILE AMCITS WILL NOT BE IMMEDIATELY WELCOME IN ALL THOSE COUNTRIES, THEIR GOVTS WILL BE PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE GRANT OUR CITIZENS RIGHT TRAVEL WHERE THEY PLEASE.

12. CHINA

IN PEKING, MUNRO (TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL) SAYS AFTER 3 YRS OF REDUCED WHEAT IMPORTS, PRC HAS AGREED PURCHASE MORE THAN 5 MILLION METRIC TONS WHEAT FOR DELIVERY THIS YEAR. TOTAL PURCHASE HIGHEST SINCE '74, REDUCES FOREX AVAILABLE IMPORT FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY, BUTTRESSES IMPRESSION THIS WINTER QUALITY/QUANTITY FOOD SUPPLY TIGHTER THAN USUAL. STATES PURCHASES MAY REFLECT FACT '76 HARVEST ONLY marginally BETTER THAN '75/COULD BE MOVE REPLENISH BUFFER STOCKS/MAY

STEM FROM RAILWAY TRANSPORT PROBLEMS AND LABOR UNREST
REGIME ATTRIBUTES TO
"GANG OF FOUR." ADDS NEED SPEND 0.5 BILLION WHEAT IMPORTS
COME AT TIME LABOR UNREST/COAL SHORTAGES ALREADY PROMPTED
OUTLAY FOR STEEL IMPORTS AND "THIS SORT OF DECLINE VERGES
ON THE CATASTROPHIC" (NYT; ABRIDGED IN CSM).

13. AUSTRALIA

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CSM'S LEWIS (SYDNEY) NOTES GROWING NUMBER BUSINESSMEN/
PROFESSIONALS/EVEN POLITICIANS TALK GLOOMILY RE AUSSIE
FUTURE, DUE LACK WORK ETHIC/"UNION PROBLEM" THAT COMPOUND
ECON DIFFICULTIES. MENTIONS MODERATING INFLUENCES IN
UNIONS, POSSIBLY DUE ECON CRUNCH THAT FORCES LEADERS RE-
CONSIDER DISRUPTIVE POLICIES. POINTS OUT LITTLE TRADITION
OF GOVT/UNION COOPERATION EVEN IN CRISIS TIMES.

14. PACIFIC ISLANDS

NEWSDAY'S JACOBS (IN EBEYE) DESCRIBES ECON/SOCIAL/PHYSICAL
DISPARITY BETW EBEYE IN MARSHALLS AND KWAJALEIN, WHERE
MANY EBEYE RESIDENTS COMMUTE TO WORK AT US MISSILE TEST
SITE/FOR AMERICANS FAMILIES. OBSERVES MANY MICRONESIAN
WORKERS BELIEVE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN TERMS JOBS/
PAY. GIVES HISTORY MICRONESIA; NOTES CHANGE STARTING AS
MORE POLITICALLY ACTIVE GROUP STARTS EMERGE, THO DIVIDED
ON QUESTION OF WHAT RELATIONSHIP W/US SHOULD BE (LAT 3/9).

15. KOREA

COMMENTING ON NEW HOUSE ETHICS CODE, PHINQ BELIEVES PROOF
OF PUDDING IS IN EATING. WANTS SEE WHAT HOUSE COMES UP
WITH ON ENFORCEMENT/OWN INVESTIGATION ALLEGED INFLUENCE-
BUYING BY SK GOVT.

HARSCH (CSM) REVIEWS HUMAN RTS CRUSADE. NOTES GENERALLY
POPULAR IN US, LESS SO IN W EUR, DUE PARTLY HYPOCRISY
REDUCING AID TO ARGENTINA/URUGUAY/ETHIOPIA BUT CONTINUING
FULL SUPPORT FOR SK. BELIEVES US SHOULD BE ABLE FIND WAYS/
MEANS INDUCING MORE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RTS IN SK THAN HAS
DONE SO FAR.

16. GENERAL

SCHRODT (JOC) QUOTES LOS DELEGATE SWING THAT HOUSE PASSAGE
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BILL TO GIVE US CLAIM TO DEEP SEA MINING COULD CAUSE

COLLAPSE ENTIRE LOS NEGOTS.

HARRIS SURVEY FINDS 65-TO-17 PCT MAJORITY AMERICANS OPPOSE US/OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRIES BUILDING NUKE POWER PLANTS IN NATIONS THAT DON'T HAVE THEM NOW. IN ADDITION, SIZABLE MAJORITIES DISAPPROVE US GIVING NUKE DEVELOPMENT AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES, INCL AUSTRALIA/JAPAN/TAIWAN; 58-TO-24 PCT MAJORITY OPPOSES US OFFERING AUSTRALIA ANY NUKE POWER ASSISTANCE (CHITRIB).

LEWIS (NYT) OPINES US SHOULD PUT USSR CRITICISM TO USEFUL PURPOSE BY TAKING OCCASION LOOK INTO OURSELVES RE LAWS/OFFICIAL ATTITUDES HOSTILE TO FREEDOM. CITES AS EXAMPLE DOS REFUSAL LET AUSSIE COMMUNIST (NUNDEY) VISIT COUNTRY. REVIEWS PROBLEMS OF MCCARREN ACT/SMITH ACT/LETTING REFUGEES IN.

KRAFT (WP, SUN) SEES PRES BEGINNING MEND TIES W/3RD WORLD, THO SO FAR APPROACH SEEMS CONFINED TO RIGHTING OLD WRONGS. MENTIONS RELS W/VN/CUBA/PANAMA. OPINES US ONLY LOSES BY LETTING USSR INFLUENCE GO UNCHALLENGED IN VN; THINKS MUCH CAN BE ACHIEVED IF HI-LEVEL MISSION YIELDS OPENING RELS BETW HANOI-WASHINGTON. REVIEWS 3RD WORLD PROBLEMS. NOTES UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES' PROPOSALS TEND HELP THOSE ALREADY ON WAY, INCL INDONESIA/SMALLER ASIAN STATES. ADVISES LONG-RANGE RATHER THAN "QUICK FIX" APPROACH TO 3RD WORLD PROBLEMS.

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